

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information saving apparatus for storing shared information, the information being shared via a network, said apparatus comprising:

an input/output unit connected to the network;

an application unit configured to perform predetermined data processing;

a notification administration unit configured to manage notifications exchanged between information-sharing users, wherein one of said information sharing users is a transmitting-shared information user, and another one of said information sharing users is a receiving-shared information user; and

a storing unit configured to store sending conditions relating to sending of notifications, said storing unit further configured to store data including notification administration information specifying communication methods, said storing unit further configured to store programs, wherein

a notification request for originating notification is selectively sent to said notification administration unit based upon said application unit receiving shared information originating from a transmitting shared-information user,

said input/output unit subjects said shared information to predetermined data processing and stores said processed shared information in said storing unit,

said notification administration unit makes reference to said notification administration information and originates said notification according to said sending conditions and a predetermined communication method,

wherein said notification administration unit comprises a notification request receiving module, a member identification module, a notification control module, a

notification queue administration module, a notification hysteresis record module, a notification transmission module, and a reception state administration module.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An information saving apparatus for storing shared information, the information being shared via a network, said information saving apparatus comprising: an input/output unit connected to the network;

an application unit configured to perform predetermined data processing;

a notification administration unit configured to manage notifications exchanged between information-sharing users, wherein one of said information sharing users is a transmitting-shared information user, and another one of said information sharing users is a receiving-shared information user; and

a storing unit configured to store sending conditions relating to sending of notifications, said storing unit further configured to store data including notification administration information specifying communication methods, said storing unit further configured to store programs, wherein

a notification request is selectively sent to said notification administration unit based upon said application unit receiving shared information originating from a transmitting shared-information, thus subjecting said shared information to predetermined data processing and to storing in said storing unit, said selectively sending said notification request to said notification administration unit is further based upon a predetermined event set at said application unit occurring,

said notification administration unit makes reference to said notification administration information and originates one of said notification and information based on said notification to said receiving shared-information user according to said sending conditions and communication method and in response to receiving said notification request,

wherein said notification administration unit comprises a notification request receiving module, a member identification module, a notification control module, a notification queue administration module, a notification hysteresis record module, a notification transmission module, and a reception state administration module.

Claim 3 (Original): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said application unit comprises a plurality of application modules, each of said application modules being configured to perform data processing specific thereto.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein at least one of said application modules adds information used by application modules corresponding to said notification.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said notification administration unit immediately originates said notification based on said notification to the receiving shared-information user according to the sending conditions included in said notification administration information, said notification selectively being temporarily stored in the storing unit and then sent at a time determined by said sending conditions.

Claim 6 (Original): An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein, upon receiving a reception state administration request from said application modules, said notification administration unit generates reception state administration information for managing the reception state of the shared information by said receiving shared-information user.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein, upon receiving a reception confirmation notification from a receiving shared-information user indicating that shared information originated from a transmitting shared-information user has been received,

    said application module sends said reception confirmation notification and, upon receiving said origination request, said notification administration unit originates said reception confirmation notification based on said reception confirmation notification to said transmitting shared-information user.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of said application modules adds information used by application modules corresponding to said reception confirmation notification based on said reception confirmation notification.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): An information transmitting apparatus for originating shared information and transmitting notifications accompanying the originating of said shared information, the information being shared via a network, said information transmitting apparatus comprising:

    a notification creating unit; and a data exchange unit,

    wherein said notification creating unit obtains information to be contained in the notification accompanying the originating of said shared information and creates said notification based on said information,

    said data exchange unit transmitting said shared information and said notifications created by said notification creating unit.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): An apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said notification creating unit performs at least one of encrypting the notification accompanying originating of said shared information, and adding an electronic signature to said notification.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): An apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said data exchange unit is configured to transmit a reception state confirmation request for obtaining reception state information of said shared information by the receiving shared-information user, to receive and to selectively decrypt said reception state information, and to selectively verify an electronic signature.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): An information receiving apparatus for receiving shared information and transmitting reception confirmation notifications via a network, said information receiving apparatus comprising:

a reception confirmation notification creating unit; and

a data exchange unit configured to send and receive data,

wherein said reception confirmation notification creating unit obtains information to be contained in said reception confirmation notification, and creates said reception confirmation notification based on said information.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said data exchange unit receives shared information originated from the transmitting shared-information user, selectively decrypts said shared information, selectively verifies an electronic signature, and originates reception confirmation notifications created by said reception confirmation notification creating unit to said transmitting shared-information user.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said reception confirmation notification creating unit further performs at least one of encrypting said reception confirmation notification, and adding an electronic signature to said reception confirmation notification.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): An information transmitting method comprising: obtaining an information transmitting program via a network;  
installing said information transmitting program in a computer and executing said program;  
transmitting shared information by said information transmitting program; and  
transmitting a notification to a receiver sharing said shared information that said shared information has been originated by said information transmitting program.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An information receiving method comprising: obtaining an information receiving program via a network;  
installing said information receiving program in a computer and executing said program;  
obtaining shared information by said information receiving program; and transmitting said reception confirmation notification by said information receiving program.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for storing shared information including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving shared information originated from a transmitting shared-information user via the network;

subjecting said shared information to predetermined data processing;

storing the shared information which has been subjected to said data processing;

receiving a notification accompanying the originating of said shared information from said transmitting shared-information user;

making reference to sending conditions relating to sending of notification based on said notification, and notification administration information specifying communication methods; and

originating said notification based on said notification to a receiving shared-information user, according to said sending conditions and communication method.

**Claim 18 (Currently Amended):** A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions storing shared information, including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving shared information originated from a transmitting shared-information user via the network;

subjecting said shared information to predetermined data processing;

storing the shared information that has been subjected to said data processing;

monitoring occurrences of predetermined events, and making reference to said sending conditions relating to sending of notifications according to said event and notification administration information specifying communication methods; and

originating said notification based on said notification to a receiving shared-information user, according to said sending conditions and communication method, wherein

wherein said predetermined processing comprises notification request processing, member identification, notification control, notification queue administration, notification hysteresis record processing, notification transmission, and reception state administration.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for originating shared information and transmitting notifications accompanying the originating of said shared information, information being shared via a network, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of

obtaining information to be contained in the notification accompanying the originating of said shared information;

creating said notification, based on information to be contained in the notification accompanying the originating of said shared information;

transmitting said shared information and said notification created by said notification creating unit;

transmitting a reception state confirmation request for obtaining information of the reception state of shared information by a receiving shared-information user; and receiving said reception state information.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for receiving shared information and transmitting reception confirmation notifications via a network, information being shared via a network, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when

executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

obtaining information to be contained in the reception confirmation notification notifying that said shared information has been received;

creating said reception confirmation notification, based on information to be contained in said reception confirmation notification;

receiving the notification accompanying the originating of shared information originated from the transmitting shared-information user, and said shared information; selectively decrypting said shared information and notification;

selectively verifying an electronic signature; and

transmitting; a reception confirmation notification to the transmitting shared-information user.